

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
THE HONORABLE JOE PITTS

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, as members of Congress, we all know that our time in this chamber is limited. Each election brings new faces, while history records the names of members as they leave the chamber for the last time. Some members, however, will be remembered long after they have left for the work they do on behalf of the American people. JOE PITTS is one of those members. During his time in Congress, he became known for his dedication to helping his constituents. He was always someone who could be counted on to help create real solutions and to uphold the best traditions of this chamber. He took the lead on helping craft legislative solutions to some of the most difficult problems of our time, including fixes to Medicare and research for deadly diseases. He was also a dedicated fighter on behalf of the pro-life cause, and used the pulpit of elected office to give a voice to the unborn. But perhaps most of all, JOE will be remembered as a man who cared deeply about helping others, and his legacy will be one of working to improve the lives of the American people. Oh behalf of myself and all Pennsylvanians, thank you JOE for your years of dedicated service. I am honored to call you a friend, and wish you all the best in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF WELDON  
BURGOON AND WELDON'S SADDLE  
SHOP & WESTERN WEAR

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-time Denton business, Weldon's Saddle Shop & Western Wear. The community and I are saddened that the store will close its doors after nearly 60 years of business on January 14, 2017. Weldon's presence on the downtown Denton square will be long remembered.

Weldon Burgoon opened his shop in 1957, where he sold handmade leather saddles and accessories. In the '60s and '70s Weldon's was surrounded by many feed shops and farming centers, and when ranchers and cowboys came into town, many made sure to stop by Weldon's before they left. Over the years, Mr. Burgoon worked with his daughter, Kippie, and grandson, Clint, to make Weldon's a staple in downtown Denton.

During his time as store owner, Mr. Burgoon crafted over 150 custom saddles and provided thousands of customers with quality Western wear, but he also offered more than just merchandise. Weldon's attracted many high school and college students who were members of the Future Farmers of America organization. These students would work at Burgoon's shop and on his ranch to get school credit and to gain valuable work experience. Mr. Burgoon also served as the rodeo chairman for the North Texas Fair and Rodeo for

14 years. Noted for his reputation for excellence, demonstrated work ethic and dedication to cowboy culture, he was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2010. Last year, his store was named a Denton County Heritage Business for being in existence for over 50 years.

Mr. Burgoon, now 86, has decided to close the shop after the 2016 holiday season. He looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Joy, and seeing his grandson's new luxury leather store open in Weldon's original location. It is an honor to represent Mr. Burgoon, a local business icon, in the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
KAZAKHSTAN'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan's independence and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the United States of America. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people of Kazakhstan on the tremendous progress achieved by their country during the past quarter century.

The U.S. is the first country to have recognized Kazakhstan's independence and since then we have significantly increased our areas of cooperation. However, the cornerstone of the U.S.—Kazakhstan relations has always been cooperation in nuclear non-proliferation and security.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kazakhstan inherited the fourth largest nuclear arsenal in the world and the world's largest nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk. In the first years of Kazakhstan's independence, President Nazarbayev renounced nuclear weapons and closed the Semipalatinsk Test Site. The United States provided Kazakhstan with comprehensive assistance in the removal of nuclear warheads, weapons-grade materials, and their supporting infrastructure.

Five years after gaining its independence, Kazakhstan signed the Comprehensive-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and ratified it in May of 2002. The CTBT bans any nuclear weapon test explosion above or below ground or any other contained environment. Ratifying the CTBT was a milestone toward creating a safer world. However, as a universally recognized leader in nuclear non-proliferation, Kazakhstan understands that it is time to move from a nuclear test ban to a nuclear-weapons free world. This is why Kazakhstan and its neighbors—Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan—created the Central Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone.

We should acknowledge that Kazakhstan has continued to show its commitment expanding its cooperation with the United States on matters of nuclear non-proliferation. As an important example, our two countries are collaborating in building the Nuclear Security Training Center (NSTC). The NSTC will provide training of personnel on security and safeguards essential for safe operation of nuclear facilities in Kazakhstan.

Twenty-five years of close cooperation between Kazakhstan and the United States are

the foundation of an important strategic partnership focused on creating a world without nuclear weapons and ultimately a more stable peace around the globe. It is important that we recognize Kazakhstan's leadership in nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation. Kazakhstan continues to serve as an example to the international community, and the United States must remain committed to supporting Kazakhstan's efforts to further prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials toward a goal of global security.

Mr. Speaker, it is a true pleasure to celebrate the quarter century of Kazakhstan's independence. I would like to extend my warm wishes to the people of Kazakhstan and President Nazarbayev.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I missed a series of recorded votes on December 5, 2016. Had I been present, I would have voted "YES" on roll call vote No. 601, No. 602, and No. 603.

HONORING MR. DANIEL S.  
CONDRON

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Daniel S. Condrón upon his retirement after serving for 11 years as the Vice President of University Affairs at Sonoma State University. Mr. Condrón has led an impressive career over 44 years and has been a leader in the areas of education, economic development and transportation.

A native of North Tonawanda, New York, Mr. Condrón completed his B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Electrical Engineering at Stanford University. Mr. Condrón worked with Hewlett-Packard for 33 years in management positions across a number of business areas including research and development, production, and public affairs.

Mr. Condrón has focused his career in education on increasing opportunities for all students from preschool through employment. In his role as Vice President, Mr. Condrón's priorities have included community and governmental relations, marketing and communication, creative services and special events for Sonoma State. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Sonoma County Cradle to Career Operations Team. Mr. Condrón has also served as President of the Santa Rosa City Schools Board of Education, Vice President for the Santa Rosa Junior College Foundation, and Chairman of the Vice Presidents for Advancement for the California State University System. Mr. Condrón has demonstrated a unique ability to bring people together to accomplish goals to improve the future for countless individuals in our community.

Mr. Condrón is a proven community leader. He has served many community organizations